

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0360

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIR TRAFFIC SITUATION

REF: OTTAWA 2691

1. CONTROLLERS AFFILIATED WITH QUEBEC AVIATION WORKERS ASSOCIATION (GENS DE L'AIR), (AGAQ) WHICH HAD BEEN ON WORK-TO-RULE CAMPAIGN SINCE JULY 1 (QUEBEC 168) WILL TERMINATE THEIR SLOWDOWN AGAINST AIR CANADA AND CP AIR AT MIDNIGHT JULY 6. SIMILAR TACTICS AGAINST FOREIGN CARRIERS WHICH HAD REFUSED TO USE QUEBEC AIRPORTS DURING PILOT STRIKE WERE DISCONTINUED JULY 2. PIERRE BEAUDRY, GENERAL SECRETARY OF AGAQ ANNOUNCED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION IS WILLING TO COOPERATE TO ENSURE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY FOR FLIGHTS BRINGING IN OLYMPIC GAMES ATHLETES. HOWEVER, HE THREATENED TO TAKE LEGAL STEPS AGAINST GOC-CACTA/CALPA AGREEMENT ON AIR SAFETY INQUIRY COMMISSION IF GROUNDS FOR SUCH ACTION WERE TO DEVELOP. AGAQ WAS UNDOUBTEDLY PERSUADED TO CALL OFF ITS WORK-TO-RULE TACTICS BY A COMMUNICATION FROM TRANSPORT MINISTER LANG WHICH INVITES THE AGAQ TO WORK WITH THE INQUIRY COMMISSION AND SEEKS TO PLAY DOWN POWERS GIVEN TO CALPA AND CATCA IN THE INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS. LANG STATED THAT ONLY THE COMMISSION WILL ACTUALLY SELECT ITS ADVISORS AND EXPERTS AND AGAQ COULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

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SEPARATE FROM CATCA AND CALPA. HE FURTHER GAVE ASSURANCES

THAT COMMISSION WILL ULTIMATELY DETERMINE AIR SAFETY
ISSUE DISREGARDING ANY CATCA/CALPA OBJECTIONS THAT CANNOT
BE SUBSTANTIATED. EXPRESSING "DISTRESS TO SEE HOW FULLY
LANGUAGE DISPUTE HAS CREATED A LACK OF RECOGNITION IN
CATCA FOR YOUR NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES" LANG VIRTUALLY INVITED
QUEBEC CONTROLLERS TO SEEK SEPARATE UNION CERTIFICATION FROM
CATCA. ACCORDING TO CATCA SOURCES NO SUCH DECERTIFICATION
MOVE HAS AS YET BEEN INITIATED AND IT COULD NOT BE GRANTED
BY PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS BOARD DURING LIFE OF
CONTRACT, I.E., AFTER NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT IS
SIGNED PROBABLY NEXT WEEK.

2. ANOTHER POTENTIAL DISPUTE DEVELOPED AT MONTREAL WHERE
FIVE ANGLPHONE CONTROLLERS WERE ASSIGNED ADMINISTRATIVE
DUTIES ON JULY 5 FOR REFUSING TO WORK WITH FRANCOPHONE
COLLEAGUES. CATCA REPORTS ON JULY 6. ANOTHER EIGHT
ANGLOPHONE CONTROLLERS REFUSED TO WORK FOR SAME
REASON. SOME ANGLOPHONE CONTROLLERS ALSO ASKING
FOR TRANSFER OUT OF QUEBEC ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.
ENDERS

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